

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated July 12, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawabata (U.S. Patent No. 5,748,257), Tanaka (U.S. Patent No. 5,432,566), and further in view of Izawa (U.S. Patent No. 5,296,941).

Applicants' representative thanks Examiners Javid Amini and Jeffrey Brier for the in-person Interview held on October 26, 2004. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 4, 10, and 15; amended dependent claim 2; and canceled dependent claim 3. Thus, claims 1, 2, and 4-19 are pending. As explained at that Interview, the cited references, even when combined (which they cannot be), do not teach or suggest the claimed subject matter of amended independent claims 1, 4, 10, and 15. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully seek allowance of independent claims 1, 4, 10, and 15.

Dependent claims 2, 5-9, 11-14, and 16-19 are patentable at least for the same reasons as independent claims 1, 4, 10, and 15, respectively.

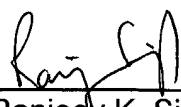
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully seek allowance of pending claims 1, 2, and 4-19. If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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